United Nations S/PRST/2008/29

Security Council

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5959th meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 August 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "The situation in Timor-Leste", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council welcomes the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (S/2008/501), as well as the briefing by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Timor-Leste, Mr. Atul Khare on 19 August 2008.

"The Security Council commends the political leadership and State institutions of Timor-Leste for the rapid, firm and responsible manner that respected constitutional procedures of the country, in which they responded to the deplorable events of 11 February 2008. The Council acknowledges that while progress has been made in the overall security situation in Timor-Leste since the events of May-June 2006, the political, security, social and humanitarian situation in the country remains fragile.

"The Security Council welcomes the continued efforts to foster dialogue and national reconciliation in Timor-Leste through various mechanisms, in particular the expanded High-level Coordination meetings, the Trilateral Coordination Forum as well as the Special Representative of the Secretary-General's continued good offices. The Council also welcomes recent progress in addressing the situation of the internally displaced people.

"The Security Council reaffirms the continued importance of the review and reform of the security sector in Timor-Leste, in particular the need to ensure clear separation of internal and external security roles and responsibilities between the national police (PNTL) and the military (FFDTL); to strengthen legal frameworks and to enhance civilian oversight and accountability mechanisms. The Security Council recognizes efforts made by the national authorities and UNMIT for the reconstitution of the National Police of Timor-Leste (PNTL) and welcomes the report of the expert mission on policing to Timor-Leste of 16 May 2008 (S/2008/329) and the necessary steps taken to implement the recommendations of the report. The Council underlines that the building of an independent, professional and impartial national police service in Timor-Leste is a long-term process, that national ownership is a central element in this regard, and that UNMIT has a key role

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in helping to ensure that PNTL is ready and able to resume its policing responsibilities.

"The Security Council recalls the need for sustained support of the international community to Timor-Leste to develop and strengthen its institutions and further build capacities in the justice sector.

"The Security Council further reaffirms the importance of ongoing efforts to reach accountability and justice, and underlines the importance of the implementation of the recommendations of the United Nations Special Commission of Inquiry report of 2006 by the Government of Timor-Leste. It welcomes the conviction of the leaders of Timor-Leste on the need for justice and their determination to act against impunity. The Council underscores the importance of the promotion and protection of human rights.

"The Security Council recognizes the need to address socio-economic challenges in Timor-Leste. In this regard, the Council welcomes the launching of the National Priorities for 2008 by the Government of Timor-Leste, including public safety and security; social protection and solidarity; addressing the needs of youths; employment and income generation; improving social service delivery; and greater transparency and effective government. It also welcomes the signing between Timor-Leste and the United Nations of the United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2009-2013, which can provide the country with an important instrument on its path for development.

"The Security Council reaffirms its full support for UNMIT in its work and appreciates the continued efforts by the Secretary-General and his Special Representative to ensure the full implementation of the mandate of UNMIT. It encourages UNMIT, in accordance with its mandate, to continue to cooperate with the United Nations agencies, funds and programmes as well as all relevant partners to support the Government of Timor-Leste. The Council recalls its requests to the Secretary-General in consultation with the Government of Timor-Leste to develop a medium-term strategy with appropriate benchmarks to measure and track progress and to submit further reports as and when he considers appropriate."

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5960th meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 August 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Peace and security in Africa", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council condemns the Mauritanian military's overthrow of the democratically elected Government of Mauritania and welcomes the statements condemning the coup by the African Union, European Union and other members of the international community.

"The Security Council opposes any attempts to change governments through unconstitutional means.

"The Security Council condemns the actions of the State Council, in particular its move to seize the powers of the presidency.

"The Security Council demands the immediate release of President Sidi Mohamed Ould Cheikh Abdallahi and the restoration of the legitimate, constitutional, democratic institutions immediately.

"The Security Council recognizes the important role played by the African Union as well as the support of regional and international partners, including the United Nations Secretary-General through his Special Representative for West Africa, Mr. Said Djinnit, and calls on all to assist in restoring constitutional order in Mauritania.

"The Security Council will monitor developments on this situation."

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5962nd meeting of the Security Council, held on 19 August 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the terrorist suicide attack that occurred in Issers, Algeria, on 19 August 2008, causing numerous deaths and injuries at a gendarmerie training academy. It expresses its deep sympathy and condolences to the victims of this heinous act of terrorism and to their families, and to the people and Government of Algeria.

"The Security Council underlines the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism to justice, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and resolution 1373 (2001) and consistent with resolution 1624 (2005), to cooperate actively with the Algerian authorities in this regard.

"The Security Council reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

"The Security Council further reaffirms the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. The Council reminds States that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

"The Security Council reiterates its determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations."

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Statement by the President of the Security Council

At the 5964th meeting of the Security Council, held on 21 August 2008, in connection with the Council's consideration of the item entitled "Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts", the President of the Security Council made the following statement on behalf of the Council:

"The Security Council condemns in the strongest terms the twin suicide terrorist attacks that occurred in Wah Cantt, Pakistan, on 21st August 2008 causing numerous deaths and injuries. It expresses its deep sympathies and condolences to the victims of this heinous act of terrorism and to their families, and to the people and Government of Pakistan.

"The Security Council underlines the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of this reprehensible act of terrorism to justice, and urges all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and resolution 1373 (2001) and consistent with resolution 1624 (2005), to cooperate actively with the Pakistani authorities in this regard.

"The Security Council reaffirms that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable, regardless of their motivation, wherever, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

"The Security Council further reaffirms the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. The Council reminds States that they must ensure that any measures taken to combat terrorism comply with all their obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

"The Security Council reiterates its determination to combat all forms of terrorism, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations."

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